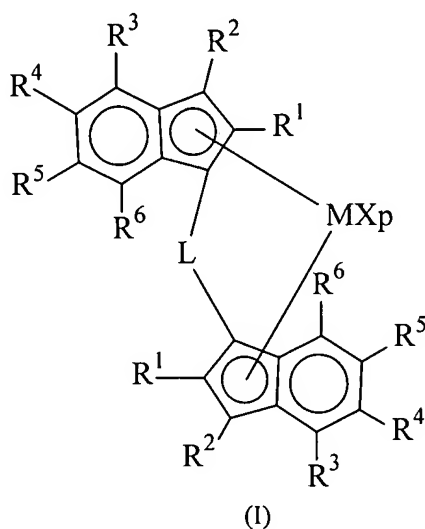


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A process for preparing 1-butene polymers optionally containing up to 30% by mol of derived units of ethylene, propylene or an alpha olefin of formula  $\text{CH}_2=\text{CHZ}$ , wherein Z is a  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10}$  alkyl group, comprising polymerizing 1-butene and optionally ethylene, propylene or said alpha olefin, in the presence of a catalyst system ~~obtainable~~obtained by contacting:

a) at least a metallocene compound of formula (I):



wherein:

M is an atom of a transition metal selected from those belonging to group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide groups in the Periodic Table of the Elements;

p is an integer from 0 to 3, being equal to the formal oxidation state of the metal M minus 2;

X, equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms, halogen atoms, or R, OR,  $\text{OSO}_2\text{CF}_3$ ,  $\text{OCOR}$ ,  $\text{SR}$ ,  $\text{NR}_2$  or  $\text{PR}_2$  groups, wherein R is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkyl,  $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{20}$  aryl,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$  alkylaryl or  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{20}$  arylalkyl radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; or two X can optionally form a substituted or unsubstituted butadienyl radical or a  $\text{OR}'\text{O}$  group wherein  $\text{R}'$  is a divalent radical selected from  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$  alkylidene,  $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{40}$  arylidene,  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{40}$  alkylarylidene and  $\text{C}_7\text{-C}_{40}$  arylalkylidene radicals;

R<sup>1</sup>, equal to or different from each other, are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing ~~one or more heteroatoms~~ at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

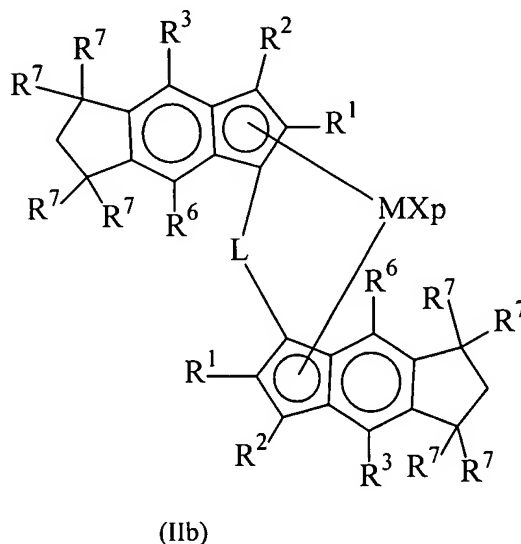
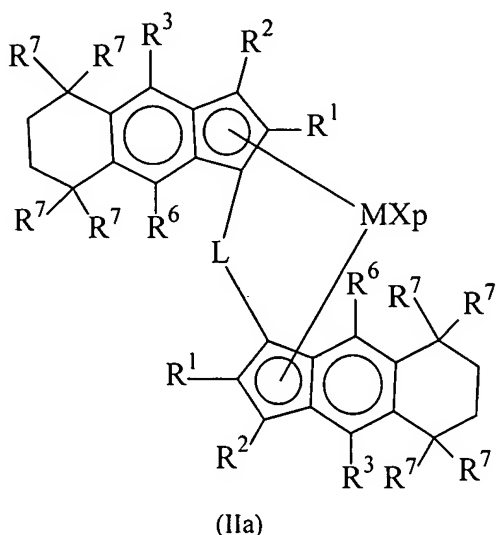
R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup>, equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing ~~one or more heteroatoms~~ at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, form together a condensed saturated or unsaturated C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> membered ring optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-16 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; every atom forming said ring being substituted with R<sup>7</sup> radicals wherein R<sup>7</sup>, equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing ~~one or more heteroatoms~~ at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

L is a divalent bridging group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylidene, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkylidene, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylidene, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylarylidene, or a C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkylidene radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, or a silylidene radical containing up to 5 silicon atoms; and

- b) an alumoxane or a compound ~~able to form~~ that forms an alkylmetallocene cation.
2. (original) The process according to claim 1 wherein the catalyst system further comprises an organo aluminum compound.
  3. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein in the compound of formula (I), M is titanium, zirconium or hafnium; X is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom or a R group ~~wherein R has the same meaning as in claim 1~~ and L is Si(R<sup>8</sup>)<sub>2</sub>, wherein R<sup>8</sup> is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radical.
  4. (currently amended) The process according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl radical; R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are hydrogen atoms and R<sup>7</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl radical.

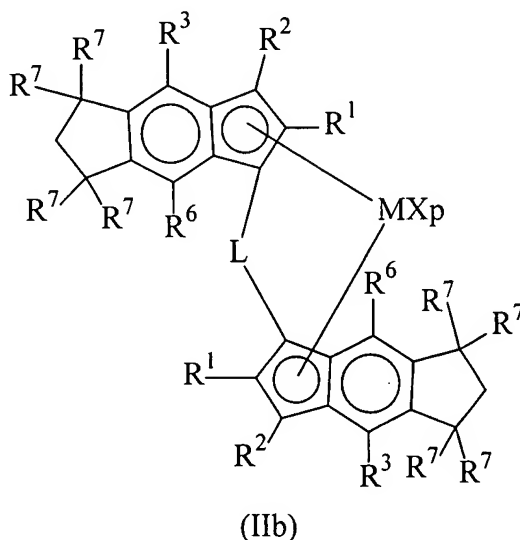
5. (currently amended) The process according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1 wherein the compound of formula (I) has formula (IIa) or (IIb):



wherein:

~~M, X, p, L, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> have the same meaning as in claim 1.~~

6. (currently amended) The process according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1 wherein 1-butene is homopolymerized.
7. (currently amended) A metallocene compound of formula (IIb):



wherein ~~M, p, L, R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and X have the same meaning as in claim 1~~

M is an atom of a transition metal selected from those belonging to group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide groups in the Periodic Table of the Elements;

p is an integer from 0 to 3, being equal to the formal oxidation state of the metal M minus

2:

L is a divalent bridging group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylidene, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkylidene, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylidene, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylarylidene, or a C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkylidene radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, or a silylidene radical containing up to 5 silicon atoms;

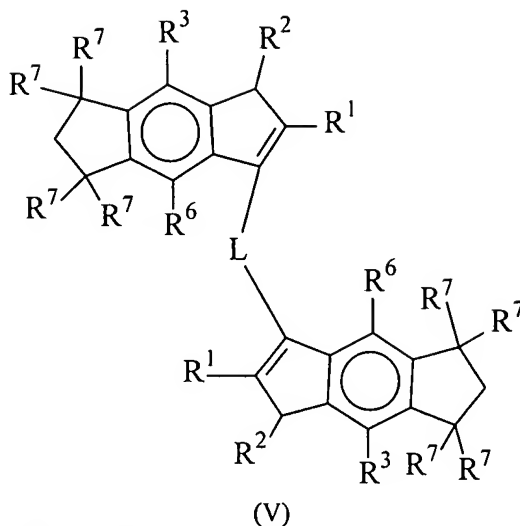
R<sup>1</sup>, equal to or different from each other, are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup>, equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

R<sup>7</sup>, equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

X, equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms, halogen atoms, or R, OR, OSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, OCOR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub> or PR<sub>2</sub> groups, wherein R is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; or two X can optionally form a substituted or unsubstituted butadienyl radical or a OR'O group wherein R' is a divalent radical selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylidene, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> arylidene, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> alkylarylidene and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> arylalkylidene radicals.

8. (currently amended) A ligand of formula (V) or its corresponding double bond isomer:



wherein  $L$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^6$ , and  $R^7$  have the same the same meaning as in claim 1

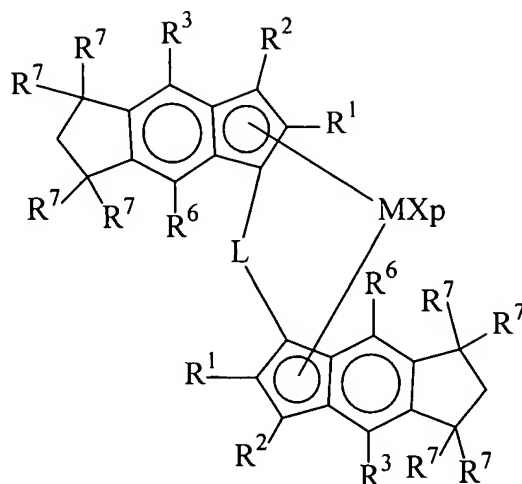
$L$  is a divalent bridging group selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylidene,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkylidene,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  arylidene,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylarylidene, or a  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkylidene radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, or a silylidene radical containing up to 5 silicon atoms;

$R^1$ , equal to or different from each other, are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

$R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^6$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; and

$R^7$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements.

9. (currently amended) A process for preparing thea metallocene compound of formula (IIb):



(IIb)

wherein  $M$ ,  $p$ ,  $L$ ,  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$  and  $X$  have the same meaning as in claim 1

$M$  is an atom of a transition metal selected from those belonging to group 3, 4, 5, 6 or to the lanthanide or actinide groups in the Periodic Table of the Elements;

$p$  is an integer from 0 to 3, being equal to the formal oxidation state of the metal  $M$  minus 2;

$L$  is a divalent bridging group selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylidene,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkylidene,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  arylidene,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylarylidene, or a  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkylidene radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, or a silylidene radical containing up to 5 silicon atoms;

$R^1$ , equal to or different from each other, are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

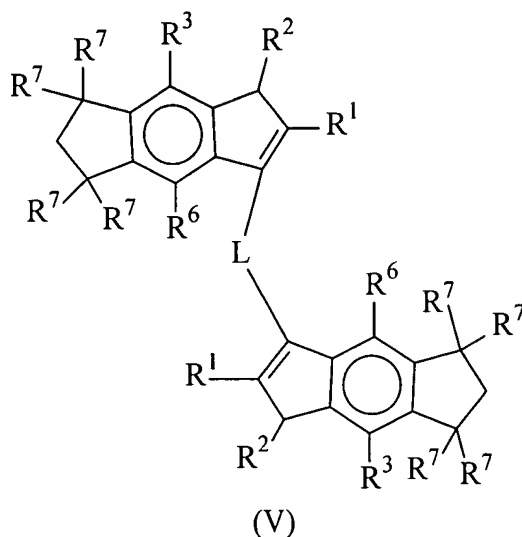
$R^2$ ,  $R^3$  and  $R^6$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

$R^7$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

X, equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms, halogen atoms, or R, OR, OSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, OCOR, SR, NR<sub>2</sub> or PR<sub>2</sub> groups, wherein R is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radical, optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; or two X can optionally form a substituted or unsubstituted butadienyl radical or a OR'O group wherein R' is a divalent radical selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylidene, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> arylidene, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> alkylarylidene and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>40</sub> arylalkylidene radicals;

comprising the following steps:

a) contacting a ligand of formula (V)



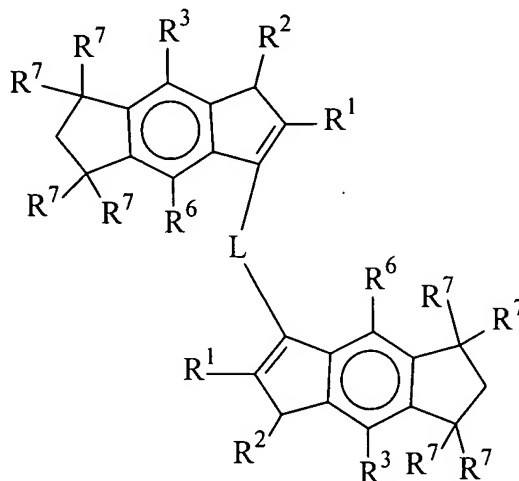
or its double bond isomer

~~wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and L have the same meaning as in claim 1~~ with a base of formula T<sub>j</sub>B or TMgT<sup>1</sup>, or sodium or potassium hydride, or metallic sodium or potassium; wherein B is an alkaline or alkali-earth metal and j is 1 or 2, j being equal to 1 when B is an alkaline metal, and j being equal to 2 when B is an alkali-earth metal; T is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl groups, optionally containing ~~one or more~~ at least one Si or Ge ~~atoms~~ atom; T<sup>1</sup> is a halogen atom or a group OR'' wherein R'' is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing ~~one or more heteroatoms~~ at least one heteroatom

belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; wherein the molar ratio between said base and the ligand of the formula (V) and is at least 2:1; and

- b) contacting the product obtained in step a) with a compound of formula  $MX_4$  wherein M and X have the same meaning as in claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A process for preparing the ligand of formula (V)



(V)

or its double bond isomer

wherein  $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^6, R^7$  and L have the same meaning as in claim 1,

L is a divalent bridging group selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylidene,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkylidene,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  arylidene,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylarylidene, or a  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkylidene radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, or a silylidene radical containing up to 5 silicon atoms;

$R^1$ , equal to or different from each other, are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

$R^2, R^3$  and  $R^6$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

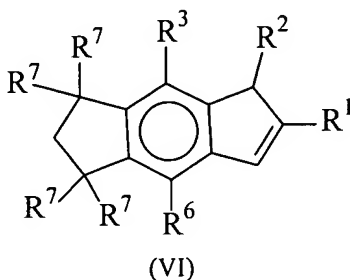
$R^7$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or



C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

comprising the following steps:

- a) contacting a compound of formula (VI):

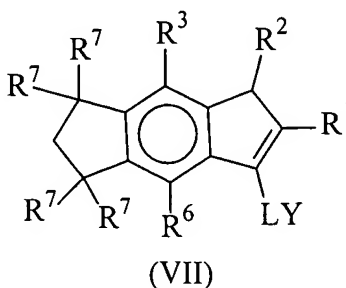


or its double bonds isomer

~~wherein: R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, and R<sup>7</sup> have the same the same meaning as in claim 1;~~

with a base of formula T<sub>j</sub>B or TMgT<sup>1</sup>, or sodium or potassium hydride, or metallic sodium or potassium; wherein B is an alkaline or alkali-earth metal and j is 1 or 2, j being equal to 1 when B is an alkaline metal, and j being equal to 2 when B is an alkali-earth metal; T is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl groups, optionally containing one or more Si or Ge atoms; T<sup>1</sup> is a halogen atom or a group OR'' wherein R'' is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; wherein the molar ratio of said base and the compound of the formula (VI) is at least 1:1;

- b) contacting ~~the obtained~~ anionic compounds obtained in step a) with a compound of formula (VII):

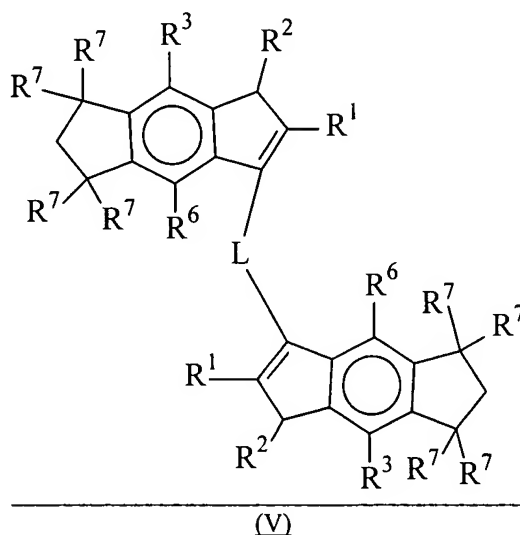


or its double bonds isomer

wherein  $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^6, R^7$  and L have the same the same meaning as in claim 1 and

Y is a halogen radical selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide and iodide.

11. (currently amended) A process for preparing thea ligand of formula (V): when



or its double bond isomer

wherein

L is a divalent bridging group selected from  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylidene,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkylidene,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  arylidene,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylarylidene, or a  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkylidene radical optionally containing heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements, or a silylidene radical containing up to 5 silicon atoms;

$R^1$ , equal to or different from each other, are linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

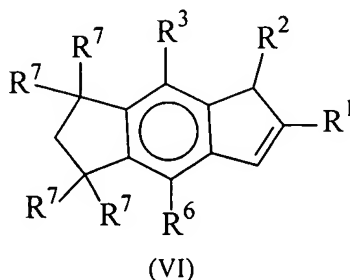
$R^2, R^3$  and  $R^6$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more heteroatoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

$R^7$ , equal to or different from each other, are hydrogen atoms or linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$ -alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$ -cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$ -aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$ -alkylaryl or

C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements;

wherein the substituents R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are the same in both the indenyl moieties, comprising the following steps:

- a) contacting a compound of formula (VI):



or its double bonds isomer

~~wherein: R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> have the same the same meaning as in claim 1;~~ with a base of formula T<sub>j</sub>B or TMgT<sup>1</sup>, or sodium or potassium hydride, or metallic sodium or potassium; wherein B is an alkaline or alkali-earth metal and j is 1 or 2, j being equal to 1 when B is an alkaline metal, and j being equal to 2 when B is an alkali-earth metal; T is selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl groups, optionally containing ~~one or more~~ at least one Si or Ge atoms; T<sup>1</sup> is a halogen atom or a group OR'' wherein R'' is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylaryl or C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing ~~one or more heteroatoms~~ at least one heteroatom belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements; wherein the molar ratio between said base and the compound of the formula (VI) is at least 1:1;

- b) reacting ~~the~~ product obtained in step a) with a compound of formula YLY, wherein ~~L and Y have the same the same meaning as in claim 9~~ is a halogen radical selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide and iodide and wherein ~~the~~ molar ratio between the compound obtained in step a) and the compound of formula YLY is at least 2:1.